

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 7, 2004

LB 1090

from an environmental issue. Is that something that is worthy of extended debate? Well, this will take money from the Environmental Trust Fund. Is education an issue that has social implications to our children? It takes money from education. But all Senator Landis had to do was tell you all the script that the "Emperor" wrote and you all hopped to it and you played your roles and you fulfilled them so well that you're entitled to Oscars. It doesn't have social implications. You are going to hear me talk about some of the amendments that I had which the "Emperor" decided ought not be discussed, and you all agreed with him. I was going to offer you all a provision that said the State Fair Board gets that 10 percent to be expended as provided by law. Then you put in the constitution with that guarantee of the money the notice that the Legislature will determine how it's to be spent, and there won't have to be all this arguing at some future date; well, maybe the Legislature can set restrictions in the statutes and this, that and the other. I had an amendment that would say if the Legislature decides that more money should go into the Compulsive Gambling Fund, the Legislature could provide for that from this lottery money. The way this constitutional amendment is drafted, if there develop...if there develops a greater problem with compulsive gambling, you cannot take any more percentage from the lottery funds to put into the gambling fund because you have fixed in the constitution how that money is to be divided. You all didn't think about this. You don't have to think about it but I must. That's my job and I take my job seriously and I view the constitution with more seriousness than the rest of you. I had said I was going to talk about the disparaging remarks made about the constitution. Senator Landis ridiculed it. Senator Brashear dismissed it. It's just a document like any other thing. Look at all the trash that's in it now, so trash it some more. It's not a document worthy of any special consideration. That's not the way I feel because constitutions have been the only possible basis for those who are in the minority to have even a chance to get a break. So the constitution would mean more to a black man than to these privileged white men because they're on top, they don't need a constitution. They got everything their way anyway. They're not going to be out there grubbing in the dirt trying to make a living. They can give lectures. They can travel all over the